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MONTANA LABOR MARKETCE

Monthly Review of EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF FRESIDENT

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana OL OF MINES

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FL. 220.



JULY, 1961

Industrial Employment Builds to Good Levels

Active forces in the June labor market sparked a continuation of the preceding months' seasonal employment advances. According to estimates by the Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, June non-farm employment in Montana reached 173,400, a gain of 6,600 over the May figure. Job gains in construction, government, and service industries were chiefly responsible for much of the employment rise. Employment expansion also occurred in manufacturing, transportation, utilities, and communications, trade, and finance, insurance, and real estate units. Employment in mining failed to move from the May job levels.

1,800 Below Last Year

Despite the substantial seasonal increase in employment from May to June, the state employment total was still 1,800 less than last June. Job opportunities have failed to keep abreast of an expanding labor force. New entrants to the labor market are not the only ones having difficulty in finding jobs. Many skilled workers, including carpenters, operating engineers, mechanics, and others, are without work. This situation stems mainly from completion of many major construction projects last year and the slow start of new building and other construction activity this year. Although several big federal projects, including the missile base sites, the Yellowtail Dam project, and others, have taken up some of the slack, the volume of workers has not been up to expectations.

Seasonal Gain of 13,600

From a seasonal viewpoint, the June wage earner figure tops the mid-winter low of

LABOR MARKET HAS 15,600 SURPLUS LABOR SEEKING JOBS AS SUMMER SEASON BEGINS

Increased seasonal labor demands in June failed to cut very deeply into a labor supply unusually large for this time of the year. The jobseeker count at 22 local offices of the Montana State Employment Service totaled 15,619 at the end of June. It was the second highest June total of record, surpassed only by June, 1958 when there were 16,800 idle workers in a period of economic downturn. The current inventory of idle workers is 5,600 more than last year and 8,500 higher than the June average of the past ten years. Although the current labor surplus is inflated somewhat by registrations of high school and callege students, a lock at the connectional descriptions of the current applicants. and college students, a look at the occupational classifications of the current applicants shows approximately 6,000 experienced workers. Included, among others, are 221 in professional and managerial classifications, 1,429 in skilled classifications, including many in construction crafts, and 1,378 in semi-skilled groups.

last February by 13,600 wage earners. It is the lowest seasonal expansion between these two points during the past five years. The employment growth from February to June last year was 22,700; it was 20,800 in 1959, and 16,800 in 1958. The average February-June employment rise from 1957-1961 figures at 18,200 workers.

Nearly All Industries Lag

The employment decline from year ago levels is distributed among five major industry groups. The largest losses are charged to mining and manufacturing where employment levels were down 1,200 and 1,100 respectively from last June. All of the loss in the state's mining payrolls was centered in metal mining. Although there has been a moderate increase in metal mining payrolls since last winter, the fact still remains that employment in this industry is down substantially from the past five years. Employment declines at smelters accounted for more than half of the drop in manufacturing employment from last year. Employment in the transportation and utilities group was down 1,000, with the total separating into a

deficit of 800 in railroads, a drop of 100 each in other transportation segments and in utility firms. Other employment drops from last June were recorded in trade, down 700, and service industry, down 300. Partially offsetting these minus figures in five industry groups were the over-the-year gains of 1,200 in contract construction and 1,300 in government employment. Employment in finance, insurance, and real estate estab-lishments, at 6,800, remained the same as last June.

A Dismal Farm Picture

Reduced job demands for farm and ranch workers points up the seriousness of the farm situation this year. Drought, grasshoppers, and declining livestock prices presage a weakened farm economy. Early reports indicate the smallest wheat crop since 1949, with most of the decline in the spring wheat harvests. Some small farm operators in the northeastern section of the state have already joined the ranks of the jobseekers. Water and feed shortages have forced some livestock men to liquidate their entire herds.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

		AC	CESSIC	ON RA	TE		May May Apr. May May Apr. May Apr. May May Apr. May May Apr. May May Part May M								
INDUSTRY		Total		N	ew Hi	ге		Total			Quit			Layoff	
	1) May 1961	2) Apr 1961	May 1960	May 1961	Apr. 1961	May 1960								Apr. 1961	May 1960
3) All Manufacturing	7.0 1.6	4.6 5.6 4.0 3.0	6.3 8.0 6.0 3.3	4.3 5.6 1.0 2.0	3.7 4.4 2.0 2.4	5.3	3.2	3.1	5.4	1.5	1.4	1.9	.4 .5 .2 .2	.5 .7 .2 .3	1.0 1.0 1.0 .5 1.0
All Mining Metal Mining	7.3 4.6	7.8	7.9 7.5	2.3	2.7	3.3 1.9	5.6 3.8	7.3 3.3	6.0	2.4 1.8	2.8 .6	2.4 2.7	1.6	3.5 1.5	1.1

Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time. 2) Figures previously revised on more complete returns. 3) Excludes sugar and canning industries. Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations.

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Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary July 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(626 jobseekers, 59 new, 408 men, 218 women). Area labor market patterns fairly active during June with most job hires in construction fields. Smelter employment at normal levels with some worker callbacks as needed. Trade, service, and other industry segments not as active as years past.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(3,391 jobseekers, 940 new, 2,106 men, 1,285 women). Jobseeker totals swelled by new entrants to labor market, in-migration of transient workers, and surplus of construction workers including carpenters and truck drivers. Construction activity down substantially from last year's building record. Month old plumbers' strike could cause more layoffs if settlement not reached soon. Good hiring trends evident in finance, insurance, and real estate units; trade, service and trucking industries. Railroad hiring practically nil. Sugar beet thinning and weeding completed with domestic and foreign labor leaving the area. Dry land crop and range conditions worst in years.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(450 jobseekers, 190 new, 321 men, 129 women). Area labor market trends holding fairly well to seasonal patterns with construction, trade, and service industries at the forefront. Work on highway projects, college buildings, and private homes making good progress with no labor problems or shortages. Logging operations slower than usual, but two major sawmills on two-shift basis despite lagging lumber demand.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,891 jobseekers, 346 new, 1,460 men, 431 women). Metal mining employment picture appears to be improving steadily; situation expected to prevail for the next three months. Employment levels, however, have some distance to go before they catch up with the 5-year average of 6,100. Construction is a pale spot with practically no new building activity and only limited highway, work. Most building permits issued chiefly for remodeling of housing units. Hotel, cafe, and other service industries hiring up with increasing tourist traffic.

CUT BANK—(418 jobseekers, 107 new, 359 men, 59 women). Labor market activity reduced by diminished construction projects with no new starts in evidence, and current projects not of substantial volume. Main hiring activity occurred in trade and service industries as a result of busy tourist traffic and good volume at Glacier Park. Farm hiring not up to normal volume due to near drought conditions.

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment—	June 1961	May 1961	June 1960	June-Avg. 1952-61
Industrial Employment	173,400	166,800	175,200	167,500
New Job Applicants	5,285	3,905	6,166	4,722
Job Applicants, End of Month	15,619	15,368	10,035	8,372
Insured Unemployment, Week of	July 7 1961	June 3 1961	July 1 1960	Avg. 1st July Wk. 1957-61
New and Renewal Claims	736	681	7 79	654
Unemployed Weeks Filed	4,091	6,994	3,874	3,829
Total Unemployment Claims	4,827	7,675	4,653	4,483

DILLON—(145 jobseekers, 103 new, 104 men, 41 women). Good activity on industrial and farm fronts during June despite a few setbacks. Hot, dry weather affected farm crops—some grain fields are a complete loss and being cut for feed. First hay crops range from fair to good with no second cutting. Some construction projects nearing completion, including relocation of railroad tracks near Clark Canyon Dam site, junior high school building, and highway project. Thirty workers laid off from bridge work because of steel shortages. Twenty additional workers hired by talc mining firm.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(575 jobseekers, 155 new, 347 men, 228 women). Fewer job hires this year reflected in reduced construction worker demand. About 150 employed on air base projects compared with 1,500 last year. Hiring on base housing project not yet begun due to material shortages. Only small crew working on 4-lane highway project, but increased demand expected next month. Main street business slowed by reduced construction activity and drought conditions

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(152 jobseekers, 104 new, 89 men, 63 women). Area economy weakened by lull in construction, oil field work, and drought depressed grasshopper infested farm fields. Many construction workers still idle with cancellation of some projects and slow start of others. Unemployment claims triple last year's total.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(2,049 jobseckers, 889 new, 1,367 men, 682 women). June jobseeker files heavy with student and transient applications. Influx of out-of-area workers hopeful for missile employment continues. Hiring on this project chiefly in stenographic and engineering fields. Surplus of all craftsmen classifications current. June hiring chiefly in trade and service industries to meet demands of tourist traffic. Some improvement also shown in automotive service firms. Normal farm labor demand reduced by drought conditions. Unemployment totals still high with claims double last year's count.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(282 jobseekers, 76 new, 178 men, 104 women). Active hiring in lumbering, mining, and forest service highlighted the June labor market picture. Most qualified lumber workers now employed. Half of idle workers are students and older applicants. Most June farm hires were in sugar beet and hay fields.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(376 jobseekers, 215 new, 253 men, 123 women). Area labor market patterns generally quiet with reduced construction and railroad employment combined with poor farm conditions. Only limited seasonal expansion in trade and service industries with few tourists in area so far this year. Farm hiring considerably below last year; some farm operators entering labor market because of poor crop yields.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(506 jobseekers, 258 new, 327 men, 179 women). Job hires exceed one year ago, but unemployment still hangs high. Many building trades craftsmen still unemployed as construction starts lag. Scheduled construction of new V. A. hospital should help alleviate this situation. Jobseeker file contains many younger age groups and unskilled workers classifications. Demand for experienced clerical workers still persists. Farm labor demand steady with shortages of good hay hands developing.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,368 jobseekers, 369 new, 941 men, 427 women). Expanding employment in lumber and logging, and trade and service industries helped to strengthen the summer economy. More activity in woods and sawmills predicted as season advances. Construction of Libby plywood plant underway with 15 employed. Cherry harvest begun mid-July providing employment for several hundred workers.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(486 jobseekers, 184 new, 406 men, 80 women). Farm hiring down nearly a third from last year with dry weather and poor crops. Cattle sales up due to feed and water shortages. Some construction and service industry layoffs occurring. Main street business slow due to farm problems.

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)*

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1953	147.1	145.9	147.9	151.5	155.2	161.0	162.2	164.1	163.2	162.2	159.9	157.9	156.5
1954	148.8	147.6	149.4	153.4	158.0	164.1	166.6	167.8	157.1	156.1	160.3	158.0	157.2
1955	150.6	149.0	149.6	155.6	160.7	169.2	170.6	172.9	171.7	168.3	164.7	162.7	162.1
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162,4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.4	167.9	175.2	176.3	176.3	174.8	171.5	168.0	165.2	166.6
1961	160.9	159.8	160.2	163.1	166.8	173.4*							

^{*} Estimates revised on the basis of more complete and accurate figures for industry segments not covered under the Unemployment Insurance Program. **Preliminary Estimate.

Along the Hiring Line-Field Summary July 1

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(263 jobseekers, 134 new, 178 men, 85 women). Good labor market trends evident in both industry and agriculture. Highway and building construction in good progress with few layoffs. Sawmill and logging operations at normal seasonal volume. Yellowstone Park hiring good with some shortages of cooks, porters, and other service workers. Some railroad extra gang hiring noted with job orders current for brakemen, firemen, and others.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(163 jobseekers, 122 new, 120 men, 43 women). Other than interstate highway work, construction projects are scarce. Scheduled ones which could develop soon, include sewage disposal system, shopping center, highway bridge, and county nursing home. Demand for ranch help slow with most activity on irrigated units. Livestock men reported to be marketing entire herds due to feed and water shortages.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior -(1,408 jobseekers, 564 new, 945 men, 463 women). Hiring upswing in trade, service, and manufacturing offset reduced construction activity. Private and commercial building below past years; road construction projects non-existent. Strike of sheet metal workers started during the month. Destruction of obsolete highway bridge in city begun with new 4-lane structure planned. Site location dispute holding up start of sewage disposal system.

POLSON-(275 jobseekers, 142 new, 159 men, 116 women). Area lumber and plywood plants operating full time with few layoffs. Construction projects limited to additions to telephone building and Blue Bay resort facilities. No major construction projects in future. Substantial rise in farm hiring as result of hay and cherry harvests.

SHELBY—(259 jobseekers, 127 new, 214 men, 45 women). Job hires below last year due chiefly to reduced activity in construction and railroads. Main street trade establishments and oil field activity provide main source of June hiring. Other industry segments remain static.

SIDNEY—(119 jobseekers, 60 new, 69 men, 50 women). Little change noted in labor market patterns from the prior month. Current construction projects of limited scope with no new ones in sight. One shift of 10 men furloughed from road job. Main street business steady, but with no employment expansion.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(154 jobseekers, 51 new, 110 men, 44 women). Late summer labor trends fairly active highlighted by employment expansion in logging sawmills and forest service. New Trout Creek sawmill operating at 60 percent capacity with second shift to be added in July. Work on Hot Springs postoffice and Noxon school making good progress. Mining and quarrying fairly stable. Light upturn noted in trade and service industries.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(263 jobseekers, 90 new, 205 men, 58 women). Building construction at good pace with school, service station, and bowling alley among new starts. But some carpenters still unemployed. Hiring up in most trade and service units, but at low levels in implement firms and repair shops.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL **INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)**

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	EM	PLOYME	TV TV	Net Change
INDUSTRY	June 1961 (2)	May 1961 (3)	June 1960	May '61 June '60 to June '61 June '61
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	173,400	166,800	175,200	6,600 - 1,800
Manufacturing	20,000	19,100	21,100	900 — 1,100
Durable goods	12,900	12,100	13,400	800 — 500
Lumber and timber products Primary metals Other (4)	3,400	3,400	4,100	00 - 700
Nondurable goods	7,100	7,000	7,700	100 — 600
Food and kindred products	4,100 1,600 900 500	1,600 900	1,600 1,100	$\begin{vmatrix} 00 \\ 00 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} 00 \\ 200 \end{vmatrix}$
Mining Metal mining Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic Petroleum-natural gas production	6,800 3,900 700 2,200	3,900 700	5,100 700	$\begin{bmatrix} 00 \\ 00 \end{bmatrix} - 1,200 \\ 00 \end{bmatrix}$
Contract Construction Contractors, building construction Contractors, other than building Contractors, special trade	14,700 5,000 4,900 4,800	4,800 3,500	5,600 3,500	200 — 600 1,400 — 1,400
Transportation and utilities	18,800 8,700 4,000 6,100	8,500 3,900	9,500	200 — 800 100 — 100
Trade Wholesale trade Retail trade General merchandise and apparel Food stores Eating and drinking establishments Automotive and filling stations Retail trade not elsewhere classified	41,400 8,600 32,800 5,900 5,100 8,700 6,300 6,800	8,400 3 2,200 5,800 5,100 8,200 6,300	8,800 33,300 6,100 4,800 8,700 6,900	200 — 200 600 — 500 100 — 200 00 300 500 00 00 — 600
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,800	6,700	6,800	100 00
Services and miscellaneous	3,500 2,200	2,600 2,100	3,900 2,300	900 — 400 100 — 100
Government Federal State and local	41,300 11,500 29,800	10,000	10,800	1,500 700
Great Falls Area (Cascade County) Manufacturing. Contract construction. Transportation and utilities. Trade, wholesale and retail. Services and miscellaneous (7). Government.	3,100 4,400 2,100 6,100	3,100 3,200 2,000 6,000 4,800	3,000 2,100 2,200 5,700 4,700	$ \begin{vmatrix} 00 & 100 \\ 1,200 & 2,300 \\ 100 & 100 \\ 100 & 400 \\ 00 & 100 \end{vmatrix} $

Statewide employment estimates revised on the basis of more complete reports. Industry detail for the period January, 1959 to date, will be supplied in a future supplement to this publication.

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded
- (2) Preliminary estimates hased on return from samples of 197 selected Montana establishments. (3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,302 such establishments.
- (4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
- Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.
- Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.
- (7) Same as (6) above, also includes finance, real estate and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN JUNE 1961 AND JUNE 1960

Employment	Nev	v Job	Applica	ents	Jo	bsecke	rs in F	File			J	ob Pla	cement				UI CI	aims*
Service	June	1961	June	1960	June	1961	June	1960		June	1961	i i		June	1960		Wk	. 7-7
Office	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1961	1960
-	50	10	170	21	636	112	220	37	53	24		20	1	20		10	26	150
Anaconda	59	10	176	21	626	112	229	258	53	24	77	29	46	20	66	10	264	157
Billings	940	158	901	181	3,391	499	1,452	62	496	1,413		238	494	1,344		241	879	817
Bozeman	190	22	349	67	450	62 587	386	246	249	102	351	88	235	115		64	116	45
Butte	346	4/	558	113	1,891		1,324	69	185	24	209	57	111	28	139	30	751	660
Cut Bank	107	21	108	28	418	42	226	22	55	190		40	69	229	298	48	63	116
Dillon	103	31	162	77	145	34	149	41	55 ₁	91	146		44	100	144	58	36	34
Glasgow	155	21	194	33	575	108	300	16		109	166		161	208		146	231	108
Glendive	104	16	126	15	152	34	112		88	820	908	40	128	1,045	1,173	60	48	19
Great Falls	889	167	773	147	2,049	474	1,319	235	470	210				322		196	541	533
Hamilton	76	3	110	22	282	46	231	37 38	58	274	332	24	41	159			74	93
Havre	215	23	274	29	376	79	222	98	88	120	208	63	101	157	258	72	129	159
Helena	258	27	208	23	506	117	512		258	56	314	74	199	33		70	254	162
Kalispell	369	57	630	87	1,368	250	972	268	188	35	223	61	194	15	209	51	401	654
Lewistown	184	34	102	13	486	88	123	14	94	68	162	59	67	124		68	91	56
Livingston	134	17	145	23	263	48	359	68	91	37	128		90	28	118		77	144
Miles City	122	12	149	27	163	21	99	11	55	874		34	87	726		39	94	65
Missoula	564	112	664	136	1,408	419	1,027	239	187	138		86	227	80		94	369	434
Polson	142	7	126	17	275	47	278	64	84	82	166	36	95	69	164	46	102	178
Shelby	127	34	165	33	259	96	258	51	79	227	306		105	354		52	86	34
Sidney	60	4	88	34	119	14	125	13	55	2,637	2,692		67	2,404	2,471	54	52	31
Thomp. Falls	51	14	56	14	154	21	142	30	65	7	72	33	67	3	70	28	65	81
Wolf Point	90	19	102	19	263	56	190	32	20	23	43	6	24	27	51	12	108	73
TOTALS	5,285	844	6,166	1,159	15,619	3,254	10,035	1,949	3,030	7,561	10,591	1,372	3,065	7,590	10,655	1,493	4,831	4,653

^{*}Includes 142 claims of the Fed. UC Program 119 same a year ago. 1,578 claims under the Fed. TEC program not included.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics) (Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

	Average	Weekly	Earnings	Averag	e Weekly	Hours	Average	ge Hourly E) May(2) 1961 2.49 2.46 2.56 2.53 2.05 2.70 2.71	Earnings
INDUSTRY	Jun (1) 1961	May(2) 1961	June 1960	Jun (1) 1961	May(2) 1961	June 1960	Jun (1) 1961		June 1960
All Manufacturing	\$101.09	\$ 97.86	\$ 96.68	 40.6	 39.3	39.3	2.49	2.49	2.46
Durable goods	101.19 98.03	97.91 102.14	95.84 96.14	41.3 38.9	39.8 39.9	40.1 39.4	2.45 2.52		2.39 2.44
Nondurable goodsFood and kindred products	101.35 87.36	97.91 82.82	99.84 85.44	39.9 42.0	38.7 40.4	38.4 40.3	2.54 2.08		2.60 2.12
All Mining	106.35	107.73	108.05	39.1	39.9	41.4	2.72	2.70	2.61
Metal mining	105.69	105.69	108.24	39.0	39.0	41.0	2.71	2.71	2.64
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	98.57	98.24	99.64	 }[ĺ		[]].		
Transportation (except railroads)	103.12 95.52	105.03	115.37	 39.8	39.2	39.1	2.40	2.39	2.26

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

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